Message Text

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42.

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 PRS-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 /043 W

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R 201243Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7790

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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LIMDIS

JIDDA ALSO FOR ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, SY, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN STANCE RE SYRIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS IN LEBANON

1. DURING CONVERSATION DEC 19, AMERICAN JOURNALIST BASED IN BEIRUT TOLD EMBASSY POLOFF THAT SEVERAL WESTERN EMBASSIES HERE ARE STATING THEIR EMBBASSIES IN CAIRO HAVE REPORTED THAT EGYPTIAN GOVT VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON. IN THEIR COMMENTARIES, THESE EMBASSIES WERE SPECULATING THAT EGYPT MAY BE INCLINED TO ACT TO PREVENT SUCCESS OF SYRIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS. JOURNALIST DECLINED TO IDENTIFY "WESTERN EMBASSIES" THAT WERE TAKING THIS LINE.

2. JOURNALIST THEN ASKED IF EMBOFF COULD CONFIRM THIS INFORCONFIDENTIAL

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MATION. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT BUT THAT IT WOULD

BE VERY UNFORTUNATE IF TWO OF OUR ARAB FRIENDS, SYRIA AND EGYPT, GOT INTO A CONFLICT OVER EFFORTS TO ASSIST A THIRD-LEBANON.

3. WE ARE TAKING A VERY CAUTIOUS AND NON-COMMITTAL POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT AND AMBASSADOR HAS INSTRUCTED ALL OFFICERS TO COMMENT, ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS, ALONG LINES PARA 2.

GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE JIDDA

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